

HOUSING AND FIELD DEVICE

~~Background of the Invention~~FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a housing and a field device.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Electrical devices that are used in industrial facilities in the field are also exposed to dirt, dust, water and other substances.

10 This frequently results in failures.

SUMMARY

The An example embodiment of the present invention thus begins with the objective of refining may provide a housing and a field device 15 that are may be usable in a high protection class and ~~can~~ that may nevertheless be produced in a cost-effective manner. In particular, electronics should may also be protectable and connectable in the field, ~~that is~~ e.g., in the case of spray water, for example.

20 According to the present invention, the objective is achieved with respect to the housing by the features specified in Claim 1 and with respect to the field device by the features specified in Claim 16.

25 Essential features In an example embodiment of the present invention with respect to the housing are the fact that the housing includes may include a housing part designed as a hood, and that the hood has may have at least one opening in one direction, particularly e.g., in the direction of gravity, ~~that is~~ e.g., at 30 the bottom.

35 In this regard, it is advantageous that a A quick and simple assembly is may be made possible, ~~that~~ imperviousness is may be provided, and that the housing as well as the three-part field device ~~can~~ may be produced in a cost-effective manner. In addition,

assembly and maintenance may be performed in a ~~particularly~~ simple and cost-effective manner. ~~It is also essential that in~~ In the case of a possible replacement of defective components, such replacement ~~can~~ may be performed in a ~~particularly~~ simple and rapid manner. ~~Here it must be noted that such~~ Such a replacement ~~is to~~ may be performed not only mechanically but also in terms of information technology. Due to the at least three-part construction, the parameterizing effort required following a replacement of electronic components may be significantly reduced ~~in the present invention~~. This is because of, ~~in particular~~ e.g., the at least three-part construction of the housing, which, in case of a defect, allows for a quick mechanical replacement of the hood together with the electronics insert, while in the stationary lower part, which ~~essentially~~ includes the connection terminals for electrically connectable devices, a data storage unit may be provided, which holds the characteristic data, parameters or merely a characteristic address on hand and ready for retrieval. Already from the address information alone, the electronics insert is able to retrieve via a data bus the parameters and additional parameterizing data stored in a central computer and thus able to perform its own parameterization automatically. Substantial time savings ~~can~~ may be achieved in this manner, ~~particularly~~ e.g., compared to the related art conventional devices, in which field devices ~~must~~ may have to have a specially provided interface via which the data are to be imported during parameterization.

In additional ~~specifie~~ example embodiments of the present invention, the housing ~~is~~ may be constructed as one piece. A high protection class and a ~~particularlly~~ high degree of imperviousness ~~can~~ may thus be achieved.

In ~~additonal~~ ~~specifie~~ example embodiments of the present invention, the hood may only ~~has~~ have one or more openings ~~downward~~, ~~that is~~ downwardly, e.g., in the direction of gravity. Thus, no

water ~~can~~ may reach the electronics insert, even if the entire facility is exposed to flooding.

5 In ~~additional~~ specific example embodiments of the present invention, the hood ~~is~~ may be shaped such that water drains away, particularly e.g., under the influence of gravitation, without water being able to collect in one place at the hood. This advantageously ~~reduces~~ may reduce the danger of corrosion.

10 In ~~additional~~ specific example embodiments of the present invention, the hood ~~is~~ may be produced by deep drawing, particularly e.g., from sheet metal, ~~or~~ by pressure diecasting ~~or~~, by injection molding, etc. The hood ~~can~~ may thus be produced in a cost-effective manner.

15 In ~~additional~~ specific example embodiments of the present invention, the hood ~~includes~~ may include a lower and an upper hood part, the upper hood part being designed with a vaned profile, particularly e.g., for forming a heat sink and/or for improved 20 dissipation of heat to the environment. Thus, even one or more electronic circuits, ~~which~~ e.g., as converters power a motor, ~~can~~ may be integrated in the electronics insert.

25 In ~~additional~~ specific example embodiments of the present invention, the lower and the upper hood parts ~~are~~ may be designed as one piece. It is thus ~~advantageous~~ possible that a high degree of imperviousness and a high protection class ~~can~~ may be achieved.

30 In ~~additional~~ specific example embodiments of the present invention, the electronics insert ~~is~~ may be imperviously joined to the inner side of the hood. ~~In this regard, it is of advantage that the~~ The hood together with the electronics insert ~~can~~ may be quickly replaced in maintenance or repair cases. The purely mechanical connection terminals, by contrast, are located in the 35 connection box and thus ~~do~~ may not have to be replaced in the case

of a defective electronics insert. This makes may make it possible to reduce costs.

In ~~additional specific~~ example embodiments of the present 5 invention, the electronics insert ~~has~~ may have a plug-in connector unit in the direction of the connection box. This advantageously ~~allows~~ may allow for a quick and simple connection.

In ~~additional specific~~ example embodiments of the present 10 invention, the plug-in connector unit ~~has~~ may include a sealed design arrangement. In particular, the plug-in connector unit ~~has~~ may have molded-in contact pins for ~~the function of sealing~~, the plug-in connector unit being connected to the electronics insert by a seal. Thus, the electronics insert may be provided with the 15 sealing of a high protection class.

In ~~additional specific~~ example embodiments of the present invention, the housing ~~includes~~ may include at least one electronics insert and at least one connection box. In particular, 20 the electronics insert may be joined by friction-locking to the hood, ~~particularly e.g.~~, to its upper part. Thus, the electronics insert and the hood may even be joined so as to form a seal in a ~~particularly~~ simple and cost-effective manner. In particular, an additional seal ~~can~~ may also be provided between the hood and the 25 electronics insert.

In ~~additional specific~~ example embodiments of the present invention, the electronics insert ~~is~~ may be joined by form-locking and friction-locking to a mounting support, which is clasped by 30 the upper part of the hood. In this way manner, it ~~is~~ may be possible to provide not only floor mounting, but wall mounting as well.

In ~~additional specific~~ example embodiments of the present invention, the electronics insert ~~has~~ may include first plug-in 35 connectors, ~~that is~~ e.g., plug-in connector units, in the direction

of gravity. In particular, the The connection box has may have second plug-in connectors, that is e.g., corresponding plug-in connector units for connecting to the first plug-in connectors.

5 In additional specific example embodiments of the present invention, the connection box has may have openings for feeding in cables on the lower side, that is e.g., in the direction of gravity. Advantageously, the The hood can may also protect these cable feeds against at least vertically falling rain. For this 10 purpose, the hood can may be designed arranged so that its lower edge is extended out over the connection box, thus improving protection against rain.

15 In additional specific example embodiments of the present invention, the connection box is may be joined to the hood in a form-locking and impervious manner, in particular e.g., with the aid of an interposed seal. In particular, the The electronics insert has may have at least two seals for an impervious connection to the hood, that is e.g., at its circumference and on the plug-in 20 connector.

25 In additional specific example embodiments of the present invention, the field device is designed may be arranged for decentralized use in an industrial facility. Thus, the field device can may be designed arranged to have an electronics insert that includes PC functionality and can may be installed and operated in the field, that is e.g., also in a wet zone, for example. In place of PC functionality, converter functionality for powering electric motors can may also be integrated into the electronics 30 insert. The heat of the power output stage of the converter can then may be dissipated to the environment via the hood specially fitted with cooling vanes.

Further advantages result from the dependent claims.

Further features and aspects are described below.

~~List of Reference Numerals~~
LIST OF REFERENCE NUMERALS

- 5 11 Hood
- 12 Mounting support
- 13 Mounting plate
- 14 Wall
- 20 Electronics insert
- 10 21 First plug-in connectors
- 22 Seal
- 29 Threaded rods
- 30 Connection box
- 31 Second plug-in connectors
- 15 32 Form-locking region
- 33 Seals
- 34 Quick-change fastener
- 35 Lower side of housing
- 36 Cable feed
- 20 37 Cooling vanes
- 38 Side plate
- 41 Hood
- 42 Cooling vanes
- 43 Mounting plate
- 25 44 Fastening bolt
- 45 Hinged housing part of the connection box
- 46 Guide rail
- 47 Plug-in connector unit
- 48 PG cable glands for low voltage
- 30 49 PG cable glands for power supply
- 50 Lower housing part of the connection box
- 51 Additional housing part of the connection box
- 52 Connection terminals
- 61 Hood
- 35 62 Device switch
- 63 Additional housing part of the connection box

The Example embodiments of the present invention will now be are explained in more detail below with reference to illustrations:
5 the appended Figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows the illustrates a field device mounted to a wall.

10 Fig. 2 shows the illustrates a field device in an exploded view, where the connection box, the electronics insert and the housing part in the form of a hood ~~can be seen~~ are illustrated.

Fig. 3 shows the illustrates a hood.

15 Fig. 4 shows the illustrates a connection box with the side plate lifted off laterally.

Fig. 5 shows the illustrates a field device from a different angle.

20 Fig. 6 shows the illustrates an electronics insert.

Fig Figs. 20 [-] to 22 schematically show a further illustrate an exemplary embodiment according to of the present invention. In 25 this context, Figure 20 shows the illustrates a field device. Figure 21 shows illustrates a hood 41 lifted off. Figure 22 shows illustrates one housing part opened.

Fig. 23, 24 show a further, similar Figs. 23 and 24 illustrate an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, in which a device switch is provided.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The field device has a housing construction of a high protection class and is may thus be especially suited for the installation

of decentralized control technology in the field of an industrial facility.

5 In its overall construction, the field device has a structure made up of at least three parts, including a housing part designed as hood 11, an electronics insert 20 and a connection box 30. Downwards, that is e.g., in the direction of gravity, connection box 30 additionally has the function of forming the housing.

10 The electronic circuit is designed arranged as a converter electronics circuit. In ~~additional specific~~ example embodiments of the present invention, other electronic circuits ~~can~~ may be provided as well, for example, control electronics, switching-function electronics for a motor ~~or~~, smooth-start device 15 electronics, etc.

20 In this context, hood Hood 11 has a one-part design arrangement and has no opening in the upward or in the lateral direction. Only a downward opening, that is e.g., in the direction of gravity, is provided. Thus, in flood conditions, for example, only a certain portion of the interior volume in the lower region of the lower part of the hood ~~can~~ may be flooded, if seals and other provided measures should fail.

25 Hood 11 is deep-drawn from sheet metal or produced by pressure diecasting or injection molding. At least in its upper part, hood 11 is provided with a vaned profile for cooling the electronics. In ~~the~~ an exemplary embodiment of the present invention according to as illustrated in Figures 1, 2, 3, 6, the vaned profile is 30 designed arranged to extend across the entire length of the hood.

35 In ~~further improved~~-exemplary embodiments of the present invention, the hood is ~~always~~-formed, the cooling vanes are designed arranged, and the mounting direction is selected ~~in~~-such a way that water or other liquids ~~can~~ may run off unimpeded on the outside of the

hood. Thus, there are no depressions ~~or the like, etc.~~ where water could may collect. This ~~increases~~ may increase corrosion protection.

5 Electronics insert 20 includes an electronic circuit and is fastened to connection box 30 by threaded rods 29 and nuts 34. In ~~additional specific~~ example embodiments of the present invention, fastening may also be provided by friction-locking, ~~especially~~ e.g., also in the upper half of the hood. ~~In particular~~ For example,
10 a bayonet lock may also be used advantageously.

Heat transfer to hood 11 ~~is~~ may be ensured at least via form locking and/or friction locking. An additional screw joint is optionally possible. Contacting occurs via plug-in connection 21.

15 Connection box 30 is connected to electronics insert 20 via a plug-in connection, which is made up of first plug-in connector 21 and second plug-in connector 31.

20 The electronics insert may also have seals 22 for producing an impervious connection with the hood.

Cable feed 36 leading to electronics insert 20 is provided on the underside of connection box 30. Depending on protection class and
25 requirement, ~~further~~ exemplary embodiments of the present invention may provide for cable feed 36 to be implemented from below via plug-in connectors or PG cable glands. The ~~figures show~~ Figures illustrate PG cable glands 36 in bottom side of housing 35 of the connection box.

30 The side walls of the connection box are joined to the interior walls of hood 11 in a form-locked manner, ~~that is~~ e.g., with a precise fit. This joining ~~produces~~ may produce a certain imperviousness, ~~for example~~ e.g., to dust and ~~the like, etc.~~ The
35 imperviousness for attaining a high protection class is may be achieved with the aid of seals 33.

In additional exemplary embodiments of the present invention, a maintenance switch is may be optionally integrated into connection box 30 from below.

5

Fastening for connection box 30 is provided via an integrated mounting support. The cable routing for the electrical connections is fed through mounting support 13 from below. In additional exemplary embodiments of the present invention, it ~~can~~ may also 10 be led through laterally. Mounting support 13 also has an elongated hole for a futher optional cable lead-through.

Assembly occurs following the manufacture of electronics insert 20 in that the latter is preassembled in the hood, which ~~can~~ may 15 then be slipped onto the connection box.

Contacting occurs via first and second plug-in connectors (21, 31). Connection box 30 is bolted to the hood from below by a quick-change fastener 34. Especially a ~~A~~ bayonet lock ~~can~~ may be used 20 advantageously for this purpose.

To provide sealing, the mounting position of the hood is such that the hood is mounted ~~downward~~, that is downwardly, e.g., in the direction of gravity. This ensures may ensure that any liquid from 25 above and from all four sides will drip off via the hood. Connection box 30 is protected by this principle as well. Only the bottom side for the cable feed ~~can~~ may come into contact with liquid, for example, in the case of flooding.

30 With the aid of connection box 30, bottom side of housing 35 is protected by sealing, form-locked connection 32 to the hood and two additional seals 33.

The hood having mounted electronics 20 is made impervious to dust 35 by virtue of the form-locked connection of the electronics insert

with the hood and sealing surface 22. Thus, the electronics are even protected in the unmounted state.

5 Connection box 30 is itself designed arranged to be impervious to dust.

10 The heat of the electronic circuit of the electronics insert is dissipated via upper hood part 11 and the cooling vanes embossed therein. Lower hood part 10 stays may stay cooler.

15 The drainage of condensed water in the connection box ~~can~~ may be ensured by the structural design. Connecting terminals 37 are attached so as to be spatially separated from the condensed water collection area.

20 Figures 20 ~~through~~ to 22 schematically show a further illustrate an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

25 In this context, Figure 20 shows illustrates the field device. Figure 21 shows illustrates hood 41 lifted off, an electronics insert in the hood being joined to it. Figure 22 shows illustrates one housing part opened.

30 Hood 41 is provided with cooling vanes 42, ~~which are merely hinted at in the figures.~~ 42. These are shaped ~~in~~ such a way that water ~~can~~ may always run off and ~~does~~ may not remain anywhere.

35 In additional exemplary embodiments of the present invention, cooling vanes 42 ~~run~~ may extend all the way through from top to bottom.

~~In~~ As illustrated in Figures 20 ~~through~~ to 22, the field device ~~can~~ may be mounted to a wall by its mounting plate 43 joined to the connection box, and by fastening bolt 44 inserted through the recesses of the mounting plate. Mounting plate 43 also has a guide

5 rail 46, which ~~simplifies~~ may simplify and ~~facilitates~~ facilitate the mounting of hood 41 of the field device.

10 The connection box is made up of a lower housing part 50, a further housing part 51 mounted on top of it and another housing part 45 attached to the latter in a pivoted manner such that it ~~can~~ may be opened.

15 The connection box has plug-in connector units 47 and 47a, by which connection terminals 52 located in the connection box ~~can~~ may be electrically connected to the electronics insert, which, as illustrated in Figures 20 ~~through~~ to 22 is already located inside hood 41. The electronics insert has corresponding plug-in connector units that have a sealed ~~design~~. In particular, the arrangement. The plug-in connector unit has molded-in contact pins, the plug-in connector unit being connected by a seal to the electronics insert.

20 Mounted to its lower housing part 50, the connection box has PG cable glands 48 for low voltage and PG cable glands 49 for power supply. Thus, cables coming from other devices may be connected to connection terminals 52 in an impervious manner.

25 Figures 23 and 24 ~~show a further, similar~~ illustrate an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Here, ~~a~~ A device switch 62 having a housing part 64 that is joined to the other housing part 63 of the connection box of the field device is attached to the connection box. The switch is ~~designed~~ arranged to be impervious, ~~that is e.g.~~, to be in a high protection class and watertight. The 30 protection class may also be IP64 or higher. ~~This remaining~~ Remaining components ~~and are~~ may be similar to the components of the exemplary embodiment according to Figure 20 ~~through~~ illustrated in Figures 20 to 22. The device switch is may also ~~especially~~ be suited for maintenance.

The electronics insert ~~can~~ may also be designed arranged to have converter functionality. ~~In this instance, the~~ The power electronics are connected in a heat-conducting manner to the hood, the heat being able to dissipate via the cooling vanes. The electric 5 motor, electrically connected to the electronics insert via the connection terminals of the connection box, is powered by the converter circuit of the electronics insert. Furthermore, the electronics insert has connections for inputs and outputs for connecting sensors and/or actuators via the connection terminals 10 of the connection box. In addition, supply lines, such as 24 V and field bus lines ~~can~~, may be connected as well. Field bus lines, power supply lines, ~~that is~~ e.g., high-voltage lines, and supply lines, particularly e.g., 24 V lines, are wired in a T-shaped manner 15 in the connection box. Thus, additional field devices ~~can~~ may be electrically connected in a serial manner.

An electronic data storage unit having long-term stability, for example, an EEPROM, is also provided in the connection box. Thus, an address ~~can~~ may be stored, and during initial operation and 20 parameterization, the electronics insert is able to obtain the data intended for this address from a central control system via the field bus, and may therefore be parameterized in a rapid and simple manner. Presetting information ~~can~~ may also be stored in the data storage unit.

25 The connection box ~~can always~~ may be joined to the facility in a fixed and/or detachable manner. Thus, in case of faults in the electronics, only the hood together with the electronics insert needs may need to be exchanged.

30 Another advantage aspect of the connection box is that, depending on the customer and the facility, it ~~is~~ may be possible definitively to stipulate a wiring that is specific to this facility. Thus, it ~~is~~ may be possible to supply always the same field device for 35 different facilities with the appropriate wiring. For this purpose,

the connection box can may also be configured to have a patch board between the terminal strip for the connection terminals and the PG cable glands.

Abstract

ABSTRACT

A In a housing for a field device is provided, the housing including includes a housing part designed arranged as a hood, and the hood 5 having includes at least one opening in the direction of gravity.